OHNR: OH-2010-24 **DOI:** 27 April 2010
TRSID: [redacted] **DTR:** 04 May 2010
QCSID: [redacted] **Text Review:** 25 May 10
INAME: MADSEN, Dorothy L. (Meg) **Text w/Tape:**
IPLACE: NSA, National Cryptologic Museum, Ft. Meade, MD
IVIEWER: COOLEY, David P.; MUCKLOW, Timothy J.; WILCOX, Jennifer E.; and [redacted]

Cooley: This is NSA Oral History 2010-23. ((TR NOTE: This is actually OH-2010-24.)) Today is 27 April 2010, and we are talking to Dorothy L. "Meg" Madsen, a retired Army officer and World War II veteran who was assigned to the Pentagon as the officer in charge of the SIGSALY and SIGTOT secure communications facilities. This interview will focus on Meg's experiences while working at the Pentagon during World War II. She was assigned to the General Staff. My name is David Cooley. I am the Oral Historian for the Center for Cryptologic History. Along with me is Dr. Timothy Mucklow, Senior Historian with the Center for Cryptologic History, Jennifer Wilcox of the National Cryptologic Museum, and [redacted] of the Information Assurance Directorate. This interview is being recorded at the National Cryptologic Museum. The classification of the interview is UNCLASSIFIED. Meg, welcome. We in the Center for Cryptologic History appreciate you donating your time for this retrospective look at secure communications capabilities during World War II. With that in mind, would you please provide us an overview of your academic background, and when and how you came to serve in the Army and work at the Pentagon during World War II? (The interview was conducted at the Cryptologic Museum using a conference call capability known as Polycom, the sound quality from the speaker system is sometimes difficult to hear).

Madsen: Oh, yes. Well, I was raised during the Depression. My father had died of tuberculosis, and my mother—before I was six years old—my mother was left alone to raise us, so we had to be extremely independent. And as soon as I could, I started to get jobs to try to make money to help support the family. And I never was shy about walking into a situation. Well, I had a friend who went to college—one of my classmates from high school—who had reviewed a book and had a by-line in the *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle*. That's the Gannett papers; their home is Rochester, New York, and Frank Gannett was there. And I thought, "Oh, I must have a by-line." So I got myself down to the Sunday editor and said, "How do I review books and get a by-line?" And he said, "Well, go back to the 'morgue' where we have all kinds of books that no one else wants to review, and

get as many of those as you can from Mr. (B% Manning). And if we accept your reviews, you can have the books and we'll go on from there." And that's how I started at the *Democrat & Chronicle* writing Sunday feature stories for a number of years—all the years...five years before I finally joined the Army. And the way...And I did not go to college—couldn't afford to—and, as I say, was out working, making money here and there. So this was the background of experience that I had in writing for the *Democrat & Chronicle*. And then, my full-time job was working for the Rochester Telephone Corporation; it was an independent company. And I worked my way up from being a telephone operator—a "Number, please?" operator—to being head of their one-person public relations office. This was very timely because it was the beginning of the war. And they sent me out to the rural areas to make speeches and show films that they gave me to ask people to stay off the line during air raid warnings so that the air raid wardens would have use of the telephone, because in the rural districts, there were very few lines. ((She coughs.)) Excuse me. So that's how I got into the public relations thing and the speech-making things. And every experience that you have prior to military go on to the personnel punch card—the original card that started the IBM system of punch cards. And they have what they called the "knitting needle selection". I don't know whether you're familiar with that? But the punch card has all the MOS's—or Military Occupational Specialties—around the sides of it. And there's a hole there. And if you have one of those specialties, they take a pointed punch and punch out the rest of the hole. So that when they have these personnel cards in the file rack, they put a knitting needle through. And where the hole has been punched out, the card will fall off the knitting needle. And that's how they made their selections. So, as I say, the precursor of the IBM punch card system. So that is how I had my background of personnel records for my qualifications that eventually took me to the Pentagon. I spent my first year in the Army in public relations, being sent around to speak to groups because the Women's Army did not have a good reputation. The men who were released for active duty...Well, the first term they used was "relieved for active duty." And of course, the men said, "Well, it's no relief," and so forth, and there were lots of jokes about that. So they changed the word to "released for active duty." And... ((She pauses.)) Excuse me. These things on my record were the things that got me the job in the Pentagon. So after my year of public speaking and persuading the women's groups and every other group that we weren't just camp followers, that we were very serious patriots and wanting to do what we could in the war to do our part...After that, I was sent to Fort Monmouth to study cryptology and to get ready to take my detachment overseas. And they sent my detachment without me, and I protested. But they then sent me to the Pentagon to this job and, ah, they...

Cooley: Did they ever tell you why you were singled out?

Madsen: Ah, no. When I was at Fort Monmouth, General (B% Van Deosen) was in

charge of signal communications for the Eastern Signal Corps school ((TR NOTE: Eastern Signal Corps Training Center)). And I got to know him and his wife, (B% Effie), because they were very nice to the group of WACS there, and they took us to the officer's club for dinner and just looked after us in general. He was close to General (B% Ingles), the Chief Signal Officer. So there may have been a recommendation there, but I have no idea whether there was or not. But I...My record of public relations and working for the telephone company on my personnel card certainly were factors in qualifying me for the job.

Cooley: Okay, great. Now, as you were assigned to the War Department General Staff at the Pentagon, what exactly were your specific duties regarding the SIGSALY and SIGTOT? And before we get into that, talk to us a little bit about why you felt it was important to be assigned to the General Staff as opposed to the Signal Corps?

Madsen: Oh, because of the chart of organization. The Signal Corps is way down on the chart along with the Chemical Corps and the Corps of Engineers, and so forth. And they were having real problems with the young officers in the Air Force coming into the conference center and tearing the sheets out of the radio teletype machine and just running off with them so the General Staff had no record of it. So one of the first things that happened is Colonel (B% Carlisle) Humelsine came to me and pinned the General Staff insignia on my uniform. And he said, "This is the authority that you're going to need here to control this office." And so, I may have been the only woman who wore the War Department General Staff insignia. But it spoke for me forever after—even when I stayed very active in the reserves. If I was at 5th Army Headquarters, for instance, and the top brass there wanted something, they would send me to go and get it because the General Staff insignia was magic. ((She chuckles.)) I wasn't getting it; it was the insignia that was getting it. ((Chuckling heard.)) And so, I, of course, still have that insignia today. But that, as I say, was pinned on me first thing by Colonel Carlisle Humelsine, who...

Cooley: Okay. Now, what exactly were your specific duties with the SIGSALY and SIGTOT?

Madsen: It was strictly administrative. I had no hands-on whatsoever. The Signal Corps ran the SIGSALY and SIGTOT. They had originally been on the third floor of where I was. That was Room 3D928—a big sign on the door in the corridor that led into my very ultra conference rooms. I had a suite of three conference rooms that were like executive conference rooms with red plush carpeting and oak or walnut tables and (B% the) round arm chairs—three of those—plus my recording work room. And where are we now? What else...? I've kind of lost it. Where...?

Cooley: Oh, no. We're talk...We were talking about SIGSALY and SIGTOT...

Madsen: Yes.

Cooley: And what specifically your duties were.

Madsen: Okay. Well, I was the officer in charge of what they called the "Overseas Conference Center". And I was on the third floor, whereas Colonel Humelsine, in charge of classified communications, was on the fifth floor. So I was entirely alone in charge of the conference service. And officers would call to make appointments. But the Signal Corps did all the technical work. I had nothing to do with it at all. When we had the radio teletype conferences, they would send a signal man from the code room with the box of code tapes under his arm. And there was a special way that they held them when they walked through the Pentagon corridors to alert people in the know that they were carrying TOP SECRET package under their arm. They carried it under their left arm and, of course, keeping their right arm free for opening doors, whatever they had to do. But this is how those tapes—perforated tapes—were delivered to my office. Then they sent a Signal Corps operator to operate the teletype. And of course, he had the two tapes...the pins...What you call the...that you put the perforated tape in. And so, he synchronized the code with the text. He would have to type out...perforate the text first on the message he was sending, and then coordinate it, and have the code go through at the same time. So the Signal Corps handled all of that.

Cooley: Okay.

Madsen: And that was under the direction of General Frank Stoner—S-T-O-N-E-R—(later recollection by Madsen stated his name was Toner) who was Chief of Army Communications. And the Signal Corps people were in and out all the time. And our relationship, of course, was very professional, very cordial and... ((Knocking sound heard in background.)) But because of the Signal Corps not having the authority to give orders, this is why it was under the General Staff. If it was telephone SIGSALY, I had a crew of WAC officers and sergeants who recorded it and typed up a transcript. This was very difficult because, of course, you know SIGSALY was a...an artificial voice—mechanical voice. And while it came through on the telephone...But the person making the call came through clearly enough to understand, by the time we got it on the A.B. Dick wax cylinders and took it off of that—plus the atmospheric interference that would be on it—it was very, very hard to pull the words off that cylinder. And it was a very lengthy thing. And to step back to General Marshall's impatience: when he talked to Churchill, they were on the phone for a long time. And the Joint Chiefs of Staff were present for that. And I was sitting opposite the table from them with President Truman, who asked me to stay with him to act as his aide. And I put a legal pad on the table between him and us, so that if he gave me the slightest nod, I would write down what the word was. But General Marshall was very annoyed during this. I was looking toward the President. This was right after Roosevelt died. And after I explained to President Truman how the system worked, I said, "Mr. President, I will be silent unless you want to ask me something. Because the messages that have been coming to you from Mr. Stalin, some of them have been routed through my office in order to keep them out of the

message center train so that so many people wouldn't be seeing (B% them). So I know some of the problems you've been having, so I will just stay silent unless you want something." And he just said, "Thank you very much." So then when he looked up suddenly and I looked to my left, here was General Marshall holding a salute ((she chuckles)) and standing at attention waiting for the President to tell him to be seated. And of course, General Marshall was always very grim-faced when I saw him because he absolutely had the weight of the war on his shoulders. He was the key man responsible for the conduct of the war and ran all of the subdivisions in the Pentagon—the operations division [sic]—who were on job twenty-four hours a day planning the tactics and keeping track of what was going on in the theaters. So after he was in there, then the rest of the Joint Chiefs of Staff came and sat at the opposite side of the table. So when the conference was over, I said, "Excuse me, Mr. President. Excuse me, gentlemen. I'll see how the transcript is coming." And General Marshall said, "We would like the transcript in fifteen minutes." Well, of course, that was outrageous because we'd been on the line for an hour. And even though some of it was interference, you still have to work on your cylinder because you have to listen to the interference in order to get to the rest of the spoken word. So he (General Marshall) pounded the desk and pushed the telephone...shoved the telephone across the table at me. And these are the famous words in my book. I was wearing a uniform, of course, and he didn't address me as an officer. He said, "Young woman, you are holding up the progress of the peace," which I thought was highly complimentary but ((she laughs)) it was no time to be smiling. So...Then when I opened the door and went out, Colonel Humelsine—my immediate supervisor—was there because he'd been monitoring my crew and working with them. And he said to me, "Oh, my God! We haven't gotten the first paragraph of it." So, eventually, this was explained to General Marshall how the system worked. And Colonel Frank (B% McCarthy) who was his...head of the Secretariat—of Marshall's secretariat, which was a whole group of officers (B% in/and) (1G). But we referred to Colonel McCarthy as "the Secretariat" because he was head of it, and...Well, when his name was written, it was always "Colonel Frank McCarthy comma, Secretariat." And so, we just called him "the Secretariat." So he sent a note back later on, saying, "The General understands how the system works, and he asks you to send him either page-by-page or paragraph-by-paragraph, as you can get it." So that was the General Marshall incident.

Cooley: Meg, overall, how much difficulty did you have arranging a schedule for the use of the SIGSALY and SIGTOT system at your conference facility?

Madsen: Oh, we had no trouble arranging because there were dedicated lines that we had. And when we didn't use them, they were turned over to...Who did the entertainment for the troops? The Armed Forces...called Armed Forces something. But we had the dedicated lines; we never had trouble getting them unless it was for atmospherics. But for getting the line, there

was no trouble. We...They had (1B)....(Further Clarification later provided by Ms Madsen: We had no trouble arranging a phone call because we used dedicated lines. We turned them over to Armed Forces radio when we didn't use them to provide entertainment to the troops.)

Cooley: What about...? What did you have to do to...Like with Churchill. Did you have to call him up, or did they have a special signal that they sent across to notify London that you wanted to use the SIGSALY?

Madsen: Well, yes. The...Our terminal for the British War Cabinet was the first extension of SIGSALY that was installed, and we had quite a time on that, getting it in. And it was in his underground bunker just close to 10 Downing Street...

Cooley: Mm hmm.

Madsen: Where he had complete War Cabinet facilities. And the codename for that terminal was XRAY. And we had...Of course, as I say, I had no hands-on; the Signal Corps made all the...did all the technical work on it and...But we had no trouble getting the connection. It was world-wide, top priority that we had for communications.

Cooley: Alright. Could you talk to us a little bit about...? You'd referenced previously conversations that General Groves had concerning the Manhattan Project.

Madsen: Oh, he didn't have conversations. He used the radio teletype. We didn't have voice to Guam. And of course, he was setting up all the preparations for the dropping of the [atomic] bomb. And so, he used overlay codes and...For building new B-29 runways, for example, he used recreation facilities for the troops and building baseball fields...

Cooley: Mm hmm.

Madsen: And talked about supplies that they would need. And it wasn't until later...Well, we knew that wasn't what he was really talking about, but I was told by Colonel Humelsine to give him the V.I.P. treatment in communications and not question...give him anything that he asked for.

Cooley: Okay. Now, I...Tim just asked if they used the (B% long) cable or the undersea cable or the radio for those communications?

Madsen: Well, we used the undersea for (B% England), but I'm not familiar with anything else, other than radio for Guam.

Cooley: Okay.

Madsen: And then we had a relay to Saipan and Tinian. And so, when the *Enola Gay* was in the air, they had a communications officer at their teletype who was directly in contact with our Tinian relay.

Cooley: Okay.

Madsen: So we got the messages as they were proceeding. Now, those came in on my teletype in the conference room. So we got the messages for the

dropping of the bomb and the...Of course, that plane wasn't alone. They had reconnaissance planes, you know.

Cooley: Right.

Madsen: And so we were getting the reports from the reconnaissance planes.

Cooley: Was Groves in your conference facility during...at that time?

Madsen: He was for part of it—the later part of it. Not only Groves, but all of a sudden, all of these Air Force people were there who had no authority to be there. And they were all so excited about everything. And so, I had to go around, saying "Gentlemen, I know you're here and you shouldn't be here. So you don't talk about where you've been and what you've seen here, and don't disturb our operators," and so forth. And "don't take...don't touch any of the tear sheets on the teletype." I did that until it got to the point of where everything on that belonged to General Arnold anyway, so it got to be informal, and they were taking the messages directly up to General Arnold—his aide. Oh, what was his name? (Major Tom Sheffield) Well, I'll think of it. But it turned out to be an informal gathering of people we had to walk around and warn and say, "We're not even sure you have clearance to be here, but inasmuch as the information is yours," so...

Cooley: Of all the things that happened while you were there during World War II, what do you consider the most...the fondest memory...the most interesting memory you have of your time working on the General Staff at the Pentagon?

Madsen: Well, I never really thought of that. ((She pauses.)) That would be hard to say. I told you in the first place I didn't want to be there.

Cooley: Mm hmm.

Madsen: And...But I...Once there, of course, I just devoted myself to the job.

Cooley: How long were you there?

Madsen: I was there from right before Normandy invasion. Let's see. That was what? June 6th...5/6, 1944.

Cooley: Right.

Madsen: I was there just before that. I think 02 June '44. And I was there 'til the end of the '46.

Cooley: So about two and a half years?

Madsen: Ah huh.

Cooley: Okay.

Madsen: The end of '46, right.

Cooley: And do you have anything...?

Madsen: I don't know. I suppose the most interesting thing was working with General Marshall. But there were lots of different instances. For instance,

one day, I looked up from my desk—I don't know whether I've told you this—and here was this general in a hard hat. But it wasn't the curved; it was the helmet liner-type, but flat. And it was enameled in a kind of cream color. And he had on dress uniform and what we call "Army pinks". Are you familiar with (1-2G) fabric?

Cooley: Yes.

Madsen: And it's gray (B% corded) and...with a pink cast. And we just called it the "dress pinks". And he had on a...the Eisenhower battle jacket and jodhpur-type pants and twin holstered, pearl-handled guns. And I thought, "Is this Patton?" Anyway, it turned out to be General John...Let's see. John (B% C. H. Lee). Oh, what was his nickname? Oh, "Courthouse!" ((She chuckles.)) John "Courthouse" Lee. And he said, "I'm looking for the conference room. I have a conference with General Marshall." And I said, "Well, sir, I could easily take you there but protocol doesn't permit it. So I will make a call and have you escorted there," because we had a rule. General...or Colonel Humelsine said, "Don't ever think it's a compliment to be called to General Marshall's office because it only means trouble. Stay away and only go there...well, if you're with a group or something. But stay away from it." So I called Colonel Humelsine and told him that General Lee was there. And, immediately, Colonel McCarthy, the head of the Secretariat, appeared to escort him over. But that's an illustration...Oh! And I did explain to him—because coming from Eisenhower's headquarters, of course, which was...had a reputation for being very informal—I said to him, "General, you understand the protocol here is different." And he said, "Yes, I do." ((Chuckling heard.))

Cooley: Was Marshall a very difficult individual to work for?

Madsen: Oh, yes! And in my book, I just call him "grim...grim-faced". And part of the story of Colonel Humelsine telling me not to be flattered if I were called over there; to stay away...He gave a couple of illustrations, and he told me that one of the officers from Statistics had been—that is in the Operations Division—had been told to prepare a speech for General Marshall to give with all the updated information on statistics, whatever. And the story is that when he handed this to General Marshall, General Marshall read through it and said, "I can't use this stuff," and threw it on the floor. "Go back and write up something I can use." Well, the poor guy couldn't bend down, you know, and pick the stuff off the floor. And in those days, we didn't have copiers. We had the ditto machines. You familiar with those?

Cooley: Mm hmm, yes.

Madsen: Where we had to cut stencils on everything to make copies. And so, here, the man was...But that was an example that Colonel Humelsine pointed out to me that it only means trouble. On the other hand, we were called into General Marshall's office at intervals for an updated orientation. And it was so formal that as we gathered outside his office in single file, we stood at attention. And after we were told—practically said, "Forward,

march," into his office—we were told to march into his march at attention, we'd march in and then stand in front of the seats where we're going to sit down in rows. And when we were told to be seated, we sat with our hands folded in our laps, and never once did we dare not have eyeball-to-eyeball contact with General Marshall. I don't know how he did it—how he kept this contact with everybody. ((She chuckles.)) But you didn't waiver from that while he was giving this orientation and bringing us up to date on what they called, of course, the situation of the war. And he didn't do it alone; his...he had a team. He would introduce the people who were going to give us the various phases of it. Then when it was over, the command would be given for us to stand, and we would file out of there at attention. Pretty formal stuff.

Cooley: Yeah. Who else did you get to meet while you were working at the Pentagon in terms of the major players? Like, did you get to meet General Eisenhower?

Madsen: Yes, I met... ((She chuckles.)) I met General Eisenhower when he came back to be Chief of Staff and General Marshall went on to the State Department. And he [Marshall] took, I told you, Colonel Humelsine with him which was a great loss to us because he was a genius at administration—just absolute genius type. And Marshall recognized that and needed him as his right hand. So Humelsine became Assistant—Let's see—Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. And I'll go off a bit on that. When he got to the State Department—of course, the State Department and Jimmy Byrnes ((TR NOTE: James Frances Byrnes, 49th Secretary of State, behind George Marshall)), and every...everything was done verbally—and he [Humelsine] changed that system around overnight. He sent out his first memorandum saying there'll be no more verbals—everything in writing, and changed the whole procedure of the State Department when he went with Marshall. And to get back to Eisenhower, my office...my WAC...actually, my sergeant...Of course, we were open twenty-four hours a day. And they took their break time by walking around the Pentagon, making themselves familiar with what was where. And they discovered the Secretary of War's dining room. And so, they had a place that was open twenty-four hours a day where they could get ham sandwiches at night and turkey sandwiches, whatever. They had the...His dining room attendant was there twenty-four hours. So they decided that we should have a Christmas party, and was that alright? And I said, "Well, what have you done on it so far, now that you're finally asking me whether you can have it?" Well, they'd already talked to a few people about it and had arranged to have flowers and food on the table. So, obviously, we went ahead with it. So we invited all of our generals and colonels—everybody who used it—sent special invitations out to them. And on the second one, I actually have a sign-in sheet; the first one, we didn't. (B% Then)...We only had two. But on the second one, the sign-in sheet...But that was a good opportunity for me to be in and present some of the officers who had not met General Marshall. And...Of course,

it was very formal: "Sir, may I present So-and-so." And we had everybody...Well, they wear their name tags but we had them wear an additional tag with their office and their function, so forth. But to get back to Eisenhower...Oh! Well, one thing. We had a receiving line inside our door when we had the...this first party and the second one. And the aide would come...Like the aide to Arnold would open the door and say, "General of the Army, A.J. Arnold," so forth; swing the door open. And one amusing thing. You know, General (B% Somerville) who was head of what we used to call SOS, G4? He was Services or Supply. Well, he always used a kind of pearl cigarette holder. We all smoked at the Pentagon. And the chief...What's the name of the chief medical officer? I can't remember exactly what he's called. But he decided that we should...If we were going to smoke, we should use cigarette holders with filters. And so, we were able to get those...ask for them and have cigarette holders with filters. But General Somerville had an aide, and they both used these long cigarette holders, as I say were kind of a creamy pearl thing. And when they came into the door, it was almost like a Fred Astaire thing. ((She laughs.)) They came in like a team with their cigarette holders in front of them. And all I can think of is a Fred Astaire performance when they both came in this kind of...Well, am I making the picture?

Cooley: Yes, yes you are. ((Laughter heard.)) Yes, you are. ((More laughter heard.)) That's very good.

Madsen: Yes.

Cooley: That's very good.

Madsen: So...

Cooley: One of the things we wanted to know, too, was at what point did they decommission the SIGSALY and pull it out of service at the Pentagon? Were you there?

Madsen: Ah, no. But I know when it was declassified, but...Because that's when we had the 2000 meeting at Fort Meade...

Cooley: Ah huh.

Madsen: The anniversary meeting. And that was when it was declassified. But, no, I don't know.

Cooley: Okay, okay. But it was still in service when you left?

Madsen: Yes.

Cooley: Okay, okay. And that was in...? That was at the end of '46?

Madsen: Yes.

Cooley: Okay, alright. Now, if you had the opportunity, would you have changed anything about the time you spent at the Pentagon in World War...during World War II?

Madsen: Oh, no, other than not wanting to be there. ((Laughter heard.)) You know, so that was...Yes. I thought the best contribution I could make would be as close to the troops as I could be then. And, of course, I suppose that's false, but that was the way I felt about it, and...

Cooley: Mm hmm.

Madsen: It wasn't because I wanted the adventure or anything. I just wanted to be where the action was. So...

Cooley: Mm hmm, okay.

Madsen: And of course, here I would have been tucked away in a message center someplace.

Cooley: Now, did you work twelve hours on; twelve hours off? Or did you work a...

Madsen: No.

Cooley: A...rotating eight-hour shifts?

Madsen: No.

Cooley: Or how did you work?

Madsen: We had eight-hour shifts.

Cooley: Okay.

Madsen: And I tried not to work...Well, I often stayed overtime. But I tried not to work more than that. And I was given the authority to go to Fort Des Moines to the WAC training center where they had the officer candidate school, and select my own officers—the cream of the crop from the graduating classes. And so, that's where I got my Pentagon staff.

Cooley: Mm hmm. When you selected them, were you looking for any particular characteristics, or were you just looking for intelligent individuals, or was there some particular thing you wanted to have in all your officers?

Madsen: Well, of course, I wanted the smarts and I wanted to know what their background was and their interests. But I wanted dependability and I wanted their ability to interact so that I wouldn't get something like, "Oh, boy," you know, "I'm going to the Pentagon!" I wanted them to be cool ((she chuckles)), you know, personable, and knowing that I didn't have to worry on the second and third shifts as to whether I had somebody dependable there or not.

Cooley: Right, okay. What do you think...? What...? As being a female officer in the Pentagon during World War II, were there any advantages or disadvantages in that particular role? I know you previously said you thought you were only...you were one or maybe the...one of two female officers on the General Staff.

Madsen: I think there may have been both. I think they treated us as ladies for...and were gentlemen in exchange. I think that did exist. I can't remember a disadvantage, except some of the feeling of the Signal Corps people who very much resented having us take the...this SIGSALY

assignment away from them in the office—because they'd been running it in the office—and there was resentment because the table of organization in the Signal Corps was just not fair. They didn't get the promotions; and the promotions were on the General Staff. So before I came there, there were some of them who had really earned the promotion status and possibly would have gotten it if General Staff didn't take over. So there was some bitterness that was outspoken there. But...And I explained to them I understand that fully, and I just wished I could do something about it, but...And did mention it to General Stoner and so forth but...But we...As I say, we worked very closely with the Signal Corps generals who just came and went and also the intelligence people who came in and out.

Cooley: Mm hmm. Where did you live? Did you...? Were you given quarters on base, or did you have an apartment or...?

Madsen: I lived in Georgetown with some other WACS, and we rented a house—a very nice brownstone. Well, first I lived...I'll tell you where my...I first was. But we found [out] about this man who was...His name was (B% Carmel Offey), and he was secretary to the French ambassador. And he had this wonderful house that he wanted to rent to somebody dependable. So we rented from him in Georgetown. Before that, I lived in an apartment on Valley Vista Road, which was just off Connecticut [Avenue], just before the bridge and...with WAC roommates. My...One of my roommates was assistant...in Army intelligence. Well, they both were. One was air intelligence and the other was army intelligence.

Cooley: Okay. Alright, very good.

Seese?: No, I don't have anything...

Cooley: No? Okay. Well, that's great. Meg, we really appreciate it. Do you have any final comments you'd like to leave us with?

Madsen: No, except that I just feel grateful that I was able to have this experience.

Cooley: Okay. And do you have any...? Can you give us any time frame on when you think your book will be out?

Madsen: Pritzker Military Library contacted me and said they were sending the drafts over, and could I get the photos ready? Well, of course, with my blindness, I'm going to have to find a way to get some help on that. But I'm expecting the drafts for the final edit daily.

Cooley: Okay, alright. Well, good luck on that. And again, we appreciate it. Thank you very much. And if you could send us a copy of that photo, we'd really appreciate it, too.

Madsen: Oh, I'll find it and do that, yes.

Cooley: Alright, thank you. And what I will do is once we have this transcribed, I'd like to send it back to you for your review, if that's okay with you.

Madsen: Yes, yes, I'll do that.

Cooley: Alright.

Madsen: Oh yes.

Cooley: Well, thank you very much. ((Audio ends abruptly))

////////////////////////////////////End of transcript////////////////////////////////////